

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CARACA 08078 071410Z

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SUBJ: LATIN AMERICAN FORUM.

1. SUMMARY. A MEETING OF THE LATIN AMERICAN FORUM, AN INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATION OF INTELLECTUALS, WAS INAUGURATED IN CARACAS ON AUGUST 4. THE THEME OF THE MEETING IS "LATIN AMERICA AND THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION." THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES COMMENTS MADE DURING THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE MEETING. END SUMMARY

2. A MEETING OF THE LATIN AMERICAN FORUM, AND INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATION OF INTELLECTUALS, WAS INAUGURATED IN CARACAS AUGUST 4. THE FORUM WAS INVITED TO MEET IN CARACAS BY FEDERAL DISTRICT GOVERNOR DIEGO ARRIA WITH THE BACKING OF THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT. THE THEME OF THE MEETING IS "LATIN AMERICA AND THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION." THE MEETING IS BEING ATTENDED BY ABOUT 50 LATIN AMERICAN INTELLECTUALS, INCLUDING GABRIEL VALDES OF CHILE, FRANCISCO JAVIER ALEJO OF MEXICO, ENRIQUE IGLESIAS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF ECLA, AND A NUMBER OF PROMINENT VENEZUELANES INCLUDING ROMULO BETANCOURT, RAFAEL CALDERA, MANUEL PEREZ GURRERO, AND JOSE ANTONIO MAYOBRE. ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE ATTENDING THE FORUM IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITIES.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 CARACA 08078 071410Z

3. AFTER THE MEETING WAS INAUGURATED BY GOVERNOR ARRIA,

GABRIEL VALDES OPENED THE DISCUSSION WITH A SPEECH EMPHASIZING PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE ACCELERATION OF THE ARMAMENTS RACE IN LATIN AMERICA AND RELATIONS BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE REVIEWED WHAT HE REGARDED AS AN UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION IN WHICH POOR COUNTRIES HAD BEEN FORCED TO WORK FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS. VALDES SAID THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE THIRD WORLD NOW REFUSE TO WORK FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RICH AND NO LONGER FEEL OBLIGATED TO COPY THE SYSTEMS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. HE RECOGNIZED THE DIFFICULTY OF ORGANIZING A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER IN VIEW OF THE REACTION OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, WHICH ARE ACCUSING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF SEEKING CONFRONTATION AND OF ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH A "DICTATORSHIP OF THE MAJORITY." VALDES CITED THE OPEC EXAMPLE AS A POSITIVE STEP FORWARD IN WHICH VENEZUELA HAS PLAYED A DECISIVE PART.

4. ENRIQUE IGLESIAS ALSO SPOKE ON THE OPENING DAY. HE EMPHASIZED THE FOLLOWING FIVE AREAS IN WHICH LATIN AMERICA SHOULD TAKE ACTION:

A. A UNITED FRONT WITH WELL DEFINED POSITIONS IN CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE UNITED NATIONS;

B. A NEW DIALOGUE WITH INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES BASED ON LATIN AMERICA'S AMPLE NEGOTIATING POWER;

C. INTEGRATION, INCLUDING ALL FORMS OF COOPERATION AMONG LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES;

D. NEW METHODS OF COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD; AND

E. NEW DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES EMPHASIZING INTERNAL MEANS, BUT WITHOUT ABANDONING EXTERNAL PARTICIPATION.

5. DR. JOSE ANTONIO MAYOBRE, FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF ECLA, SPOKE ON AUGUST 5 ABOUT PROBLEMS OF LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT DISPUTES WITHIN THE ANDEAN GROUP ARE NORMAL AND SHOULD NOT BE CAUSE FOR UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CARACA 08078 071410Z

ALARM; OPINIONS CONCERNING THE ANDEAN PACT HAVE EVOLVED TO THE EXTENT THAT MANY WHO ORIGINALLY OPPOSED THE PACT (INCLUDING LATIN AMERICAN INDUSTRIALISTS) ARE NOW INTERESTED IN ITS SUCCESS. MAYOBRE RECOGNIZED THAT THERE ARE RESERVATIONS CONCERNING SELA, BUT HE ANTICIPATED THAT IT WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ACCEPTED JUST AS OPEC WAS BUT AFTER A MUCH SHORTER LAPSE OF TIME.

6. DR. MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO, ALSO SPOKE ON AUGUST 5 ABOUT A RESUMPTION OF THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE. HIS REMARKS WILL BE REPRTEED IN SEPTTEL.

7. COMMENT: THE MEETING IN CARACAS IS A MANIFESTATION OF VENEZUELA'S INCREASING PRESTIGE IN INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES CONCERNED WITH LATIN AMERICAN UNITY AND RELATIONS BETWEEN INDUSTRILIZED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AND WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN COPIES OF ANY DOCUMENTS..
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